

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

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S/P - RFINN

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O R 300312Z JAN 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 023428

EXDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ASEAN, JA, AS

SUBJECT: JAPAN AND ASEAN

REF: TOKYO 1008

1. IN REPLYING TO YOSHINO WE BELIEVE YOU SHOULD TAKE
THE FOLLOWING GENERAL LINE:

-- BASICALLY, WE BELIEVE THAT IT IS FOR THE GOJ TO
DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT TO PUSH AHEAD FURTHER WITH ITS ASEAN
PROPOSALS. WE SEE NOTHING WRONG IN MIKI TALKING TO THE
ASEAN LEADERS IF HE SO DESIRES. HOWEVER, WE DO NOT
BELIEVE THAT WE SHOULD BE INVOLVED IN ANY SUCH EFFORT
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AT THIS TIME AND WOULD ACCORDINGLY HOPE THAT THE JAPANESE

WOULD NOT INDICATE IN ANY WAY THAT THEY WERE SPEAKING FOR US.

-- OUR POSITION DERIVES FROM THE FACT THAT A BASIC ASEAN TENET IS TO PRESERVE ITS NON-ALIGNED IMAGE.

-- WE, OF COURSE, WISH ASEAN WELL AND SUPPORT ITS GENERAL ROLE IN SEA AS WELL AS GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN JAPAN AND THE ASEAN STATES. WE WOULD ACCORDINGLY GIVE

SYMPATHETIC CONSIDERATION TO ANY OFFER DEVELOPED BY ASEAN TO ENGAGE US IN CONSULTATIONS OR TO ACCEPT OUR EARLIER SUGGESTION FOR ECONOMIC DISCUSSIONS. BUT WE WOULD NOT WISH TO TAKE ANY STEPS TO PUSH FOR CONSULTATIONS AT A POLITICAL LEVEL.

2. FYI. WE HAVE STRONG DOUBTS THAT THE ASEAN MEMBERS WOULD BE AS RECEPTIVE TO SUCH A SUMMIT MEETING WITH THE INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES AS THE JAPANESE SEEM TO THINK. THEREFORE WE BELIEVE ASEAN WILL PROBABLY SEEK TO TEMPORIZE ON, IF NOT REJECT, ANY DECISION IN THIS RESPECT. WE BELIEVE OUR INVOLVEMENT AT THIS POINT WOULD COMPLICATE THE MATTER EVEN FURTHER. ACCORDINGLY, WE BELIEVE IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE DO NOT APPEAR TO BE TRYING TO FORCE ASEAN'S HAND TO ESTABLISH A RELATIONSHIP WITH US. THIS IS PARTICULARLY SO SINCE WE HAVE SUCH EXCELLENT BILATERAL TIES WITH ITS MEMBERS AND CAN DEAL INFORMALLY WITH THE GROUP ITSELF ON ISSUES OF MUTUAL INTEREST WHEN THE NEED ARISES. MOREOVER, FRONTAL MOVES OF THIS KIND TOWARD AN ESSENTIALLY FRAGILE BUT INDEPENDENT MINDED GROUP TEND, IN OUR VIEW, TO REDUCE RATHER THAN ENHANCE THE CHANCES OF ASEAN DEVELOPING CLOSER RELATIONS WITH THE WEST. IN SUM, WE WILL WAIT AND SEE WHAT COMES OF MIKI'S INITIATIVE , WHICH DOES NOT APPEAR TO FACE A PROMISING FUTURE. END FYI. KISSINGER

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